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A FORM OF PRAYER,

For the USE of

PRIVATE FAMILIES,

AND

PARTICULAR PERSONS.

Compos'd on Occaſion of

The late Dreadful Earthquakes,

And now Publiſh'd

Purſuant to His Majeſty's pious Order, for a General Faſt, to be religiouſly kept on the 6th of *February*, 1756.

To which is added,

An HYMN, ſuitable to the Occaſion, for Children to learn by Heart.

By a Divine *of the* Church of England.

LONDON:

Sold by A. DODD, at the Peacock near Eſſex-Street, in the Strand; G. WOODFALL, at Charing-Croſs; and H. COOKE, at the Royal-Exchange.

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Entered in the Hall-Book of the Stationers *Company.*

THE following Devotional Compoſition is divided into ſeveral Parts, for the Conveniency of thoſe whoſe different Avocations may allow them more or leſs Time for ſuch pious Exerciſes.

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THE PREFACE.

A Word ſpoken in due ſeaſon, how good is it! *is an obſervation of a great king, to whom God had given largeneſs of heart, and wiſdom, in plenty, as the ſand that is upon the ſea ſhore.* —— *Whatever defects there may be in this little devotional piece, there is that in it which, with every ſerious chriſtian, will juſtify its publication, and that is its* ſeaſonableneſs. *For, if ever there were a time to* ſpeak *and to* pray, *ſurely the time is now come, when the Lord is* carrying *on a controverſy with his people, and perſiſteth to plead with chriſtendom. He hath begun with* Lisbon *and hath deſtroyed it, which now lies a dreadful monument of his diſpleaſure; but, for all*

this, his anger is not turned away, but his hand is ſtretch'd out ſtill, for his viſitation is ſtill in the earth, and hath reached the Swiſs Cantons, *and who knoweth how much farther it may be extended? What if God ſhould ſtretch his hand over the river, over the waters that flow betwixt us and the continent, and ſmite this land, this heritage of the Lord, this goodly plant that his right-hand hath planted? If God ſhould enter into judgment with us! what ſhall we ſay? And if he ſhould contend with us, what ſhall we anſwer? Our reply muſt be this,* Righteous art Thou, O Lord, when we plead with Thee, and when we talk with Thee of thy judgments. Thou haſt done right, but we have done wickedly. *All will not be allowed to make this conceſſion, the ſurvivors only can thus humble themſelves before the righteous majeſty of our offended God. Will it not therefore be better, while we have time allowed us, before our land is ſhaken, to* take with us words, *and fall down at the throne of grace, and ſupplicate for undeſerved mercy, and to beſeech Omnipotence to avert thoſe judgments which we have moſt righteouſly deſerved. The tears and prayers of the* living *may turn away the threatened*

vengeance;

vengeance; but when the earth opens her mouth, and ſwallows its inhabitants, they that thus go down into the pit, are loſt for ever.

The author of this little help to devotion, doth not mean to rival any aſſiſtances of this kind which the legiſlature may reach out to the people, much leſs to affront the government for not being more expeditious in making the proviſion. He, on the contrary, hears, with all thankfulneſs, the royal proclamation for a day of publick humiliation, and honours the king, and bleſſes God for a king, who, in this time of diſtreſs, thinks of the ſpiritual wants of his people, and ſupplies them. May He, by whom kings reign, and princes decree juſtice, return ſeven-fold into the boſom of his ſervant, our king and governor, for this and every inſtance of love to his ſubjects! and may this mean but ſeaſonable *endeavour* prepare *the hearts of thoſe that read it to pray with greater contrition and fervour, on the day appointed by the ſtate, to faſt, and bewail, and entreat, and deprecate in the* great congregation.

A FORM

A

FORM

OF

PRIVATE PRAYER.

I.

O Almighty God, terrible in thy doings towards the children of men, in whoſe hands are all the corners of the earth, and the great and wide ſea alſo, give us, at this alarming ſeaſon, when all the inhabitants of the world are called upon to learn righteouſneſs, the ſenſe to perceive, and the grace to acknowledge, that all this is thy hand, and that thou Lord haſt done it; — that thou ariſeſt to ſhake terribly the earth, at once to diſplay thy power, and to bring thy creatures to

a ſenſe of their duty to Thee their God, to make them humble, dependent, penitent. --- Grant that we, and all the people of this land, either aſſembled in publick, or praying in ſecret chambers, may with one mouth, and one heart, *confeſs*, that for our many and crying ſins we deſerve the ſevereſt inflictions of divine wrath, even to be wiped clean out of the book of life, and to be ſent quick into everlaſting burnings; — that our being ſpared is owing to a mercy as aſtoniſhing as the power that has laid *Lisbon* low, and made that once flouriſhing city a ruinous heap; — and grant that this our *confeſſion*, in the adorable name and prevailing merits of *Jeſus Chriſt*, may ſtop thy judgments now gone forth, that the plague of *Lisbon* may not come nigh our dwellings, and that our lifted hands, and broken hearts, and regenerate lives may ſave us in that day when the heavens ſhall paſs away with a great noiſe, and the elements melt with fervent heat, through the mercy and merits of the ſame *Jeſus* who died for us here, and will judge us hereafter. *Amen.*

II.

GReat God of heaven and earth, fearful in praiſes, doing wonders.—Thou that broughteſt thy choſen people out of *Egypt* with a mighty hand and a ſtretch'd out arm; — Thou that divideſt the *Red Sea* into two parts, and madeſt *Iſrael* to go ſafely through the midſt of it; — Thou that ſtoppedſt the purſuing *Pharoah*, and buriedſt him and his hoſt in the mighty waters; — Thou that leddeſt thy anointed through the waſte, howling wilderneſs, and madeſt their very enemies to be at peace with them, cauſing them to ſuck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; — Thou that didſt ſtop the current of *Jordan*, and madeſt the *Iſraelites* walk over dry ſhod; — Thou that threweſt down the walls of *Jericho*, and gaveſt victory to *Joſhua* over the miſcreant race of *Canaan*; — Thou who alone workeſt great marvels, preſerving thoſe that fear thee, and confounding thoſe that hate thee: — Be thou our defence and ſhield, and exceeding great reward. Verily thou art our God, even when thou hideſt thyſelf from us, and ſhall we not acknowledge thy

thy power, when it is manifeſtly exerted in our ſalvation? Thou art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad ſea. — To Thee, the hope and conſolation of *Iſrael*, we fly, beſeeching Thee to continue thy favour and loving-kindneſs towards us. On which ſide ſoever we turn our eyes, we perceive viſible tokens of thy irreſiſtible power. Meſſengers of death follow cloſe upon each other, and reports of ſunken iſlands and ſhaken countries are continually alarming us. — Grant, O God, that putting our truſt in thy mercy, we may eſcape the ſpreading calamity, that the deep ſwallow us not up, neither the pit ſhut her mouth upon us; and that hearing, and fearing, and departing from iniquity, we may live, like men ready to go hence and to be no more ſeen, in the faith of Chriſt, and in the practice of goſpel-righteouſneſs, for his ſake, whom thou haſt raiſed from the dead, even *Jeſus*, who hath delivered us from the wrath to come. *Amen.*

III. Merciful

III.

MErciful Father, who haſt viſited this iſland, and bleſſed it with the light of thy goſpel, we acknowledge our great unprofitableneſs under ſo ineſtimable a benefit. — We confeſs, with contrite hearts, that we have preferred darkneſs to light, and vanity to godlineſs; we have been wicked, diſobedient, and gainſaying, under the moſt earneſt calls to repentance. — Thou haſt ſpoke to us by patriarchs and by prophets, riſing up early and ſending them, by the terrors of thy judgments, by the allurements of thy mercy, by apoſtles and evangeliſts, by martyrs, ſaints, and confeſſors; and, laſtly, by the gentle condeſcending invitations of thy own Son, but, like deaf adders, we have ſtopt our ears, and refuſed to hear the voice of theſe charmers, charm they never ſo wiſely; — and now what ſhall we do unto thee, O thou preſerver of men! — we come to Thee with confeſſion of ſin in our mouths, and with ſorrow for ſin in our hearts, promiſing and vowing true goſpel obedience for the time to come. — O God, make clean our hearts within us, and take not thy Holy

Spirit

Spirit from us, that thereby we may be enabled to purſue and obtain the bleſſedneſs we ſtand in need of, — deliverance from the *evil* we dread, and ſpace to repent, and to be converted, and to be ſaved. We expect, we deſire no ſalvation, temporal or eternal, but through the alone merits of our Saviour and Deliverer, *Jeſus Chriſt* our Lord. *Amen.*

IV.

GReator and Governor of the world, when we contemplate thy perfections, and turn our eyes upon ourſelves, we cannot but acknowledge thy *greatneſs*, and our own *vileneſs*, and the great honour done to duſt and aſhes in being ſuffer'd to ſpeak to Omnipotence. — We thankfully embrace the opportunity, and confeſs that Thou only art our *hope*, and *ſtrength*, and *refuge*; we *live* upon thy promiſe, that they that come to Thee, them *thou wilt in no wiſe caſt out*; — we will go forth to pray, and to provide in thy ſtrength, and will make mention of thy powerful arm only; and laſtly, we take ſhelter under the ſhadow of thy wings, untill the deaths and

ruin

ruin about us be overpaſt. — There only can we reſt ſafely, and in the arms of Him only can we ſleep ſecurely, who neither ſlumbers nor ſleeps. Under thy protection, O God, we ſhall hear of *ſhaken kingdoms* and deſolate cities, even deſolate without inhabitant; — we ſhall even ſee the flames and horrors of diſſolving worlds without being greatly diſmayed. -- The wicked fleeth when no man purſueth, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. — Give us that powerful hope, that holy confidence, that chriſtian firmneſs of ſoul, which enabled the ſpirits of juſt men, now made perfect, to triumph over every difficulty, and to lead them to that kingdom which cannot be ſhaken, the kingdom prepared for them by the Father, and purchaſed by the precious death and aſcenſion of thy Son *Jeſus Chriſt* our interceſſor. *Amen.*

V.

O God, who haſt prepared for them that love Thee ſuch good things as ſurpaſs man's underſtanding, enable us to make a true eſtimate of the things of this paſſing, periſhing world, that none of its honours,

honours, pleaſures and profits may ſo attach us to earth, as to hinder our running the way of thy commandments, and keeping our eyes fix'd on the laſting happineſs and glory that ſhall be revealed. We experience that man walketh in a vain ſhadow, and diſquieteth himſelf in vain, and we learn how frail and tranſitory the richeſt inſtances of human greatneſs are, by the overthrow and waſte of ruin'd *Lisbon*; grant that theſe diſplays of thy power, and the ſad ſtate of that once flouriſhing city, may make us conſider in time the things that belong to our peace, before they are hid from our eyes; and prompt us to live here, as ſtrangers and pilgrims upon earth, looking for a country and city, whoſe builder and maker is God. Wean us from the pomps and vanities of this life, which we renounced as ſoon as we ſtept into it, that we may be ſatisfy'd with nothing ſhort of Thee, that looking through and above this world's vanity, we may cry out in the rapture of the Pſalmiſt, *Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I deſire in compariſon of Thee?* O give us a vital ſenſe of heaven's riches, and earth's poverty, that if our ſoul's enemy ſhould tempt us with, *all this will I give thee,*

thee, we may reject the offer with, *I count all things but dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus, my Lord.*

O Lord, ſtrengthen us in our aſpirations to Thee, that being no longer prevented by this world's attractions we may go from ſtrength to ſtrength, 'till we appear before Thee, the God of gods, every one of us in *Sion*; where tears ſhall be wip'd away from all faces, neither ſhall there be any more ſorrow nor pain.

We deſire to converſe no longer with dreams, nor to embrace phantoms, the unſubſtantial deluſions of a world where there are a thouſand ſighs for one ſmile, and where the mourners go about the ſtreets. Grant, O merciful Being, while we are here, ſubject to the numberleſs calamities fleſh is heir to, to ſtorms, and fires, and earthquakes, we may uſe this world as not abuſing it, ſo paſſing through things temporal, that we finally loſe not the things eternal. — All this we beg of Thee, in the name, and through the merits and mediation of thy Son, *Jeſus Chriſt*, our Lord.

PSALM

PSALM XLVI.

Recomended to Parents for their Children to learn by Heart, in Order to impreſs on their tender Minds an awful Senſe of their Creator's Omnipotence in the late melancholly deſtruction of Liſbon.

I.

ON God Supreme our Hope depends,
Whoſe omnipreſent Sight
Ev'n to the pathleſs Realms extends
Of uncreated Night.

II.

Plung'd in th' Abyſs of deep Diſtreſs,
To Him th' Oppreſſed cry:
His Mercy bids their Sorrows ceaſe,
And fills their Hearts with Joy.

III.

Tho' Earth her ancient Seat forſake,
By Pangs convulſive torn,
Tho' her ſelf-balanc'd Fabrick ſhake,
And ruin'd Nature mourn:

IV.

Tho' Hills be in the Ocean loſt,
With all their trembling Load,
No Fear ſhall e'er diſturb the Juſt,
Or ſhake his Truſt in God.

V.

Nations remote, and Realms unknown,
In vain reſiſt his Sway;
For lo! Jehovah's Voice is ſhewn,
And Earth ſhall melt away.

VI.

Let Sea's devouring Surges riſe
And ſwell on ev'ry Side:
The Lord of Hoſts our Safeguard is,
And *Jacob*'s God our Guide.

FINIS.

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